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2. Air Information

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

Order of Battle

1. On 25 January 1952, the strength of the Bulgarian armed forces was estimated at 160,000, consisting of the following units:
 - a. Ten infantry divisions;
 - b. Two armored divisions;
 - c. One armored brigade;
 - d. Three cavalry brigades; and
 - e. Three antiaircraft artillery regiments.
 2. The Soviets have been striving to build up the Bulgarian armed forces as a strong striking force in view of the strategic position of Bulgaria as a base of operations against Turkey, Greece, and Yugoslavia.
 3. At present, there are four Bulgarian armies:
 - a. The First Army, located at Sofia;
 - b. The Second Army, located at Plovdiv;
 - c. The Third Army, located at Stalin; and
 - d. The Fourth Army, location unknown.
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4. The 9 Infantry Division has been on active duty for a long time. At the beginning of 1951, two additional infantry units were created; a third infantry division is being established. The two new divisions are 11 Infantry Division in Burgas and 12 Infantry Division in the Turgavishte-Tolbukhin (Dobrich) area. The headquarters of 10 Infantry Division are in Kurdzhali.
5. The 39 Infantry Regiment was transferred from Gotse Delchev (Nevrokop) to the north of Sofia. According to unconfirmed information, some units of 9 Infantry Division were ordered to the Yugoslav border. Another unconfirmed report states that the Bulgarians will create a new armored division from the armored brigades of the Second and Third Armies.
6. After the transfer of 5 Infantry Regiment from Ruse to the Yugoslav border, the officers' candidate school was moved from Sofia to Ruse. After the transfer of 33 Infantry Regiment from Svishtov to Nikopol, the reserve officers' school formerly located in Sofia moved into the Svishtov barracks.
7. The following regiments are stationed in Pleven:
 - a. The 4 Engineer Regiment, billeted in the center of the town;
 - b. The 4 Infantry Regiment, located at the northern edge of Pleven, along the street leading to Sofia;
 - c. The 6 Labor Regiment, located at the northern edge of Pleven, along the street leading to Sofia; and
 - d. The 9 Supply Regiment, located at the northern edge of Pleven, along the street leading to Sofia.
8. The 10 Cavalry Regiment was transferred from Kolarovgrad (Shumen) to Tolbukhin (Dobrich).
9. The 8 Infantry Regiment is located in Stalin; the 8 Artillery Regiment was transferred from Stalin to Razgrad.
10. The 19 Infantry Regiment, which until now has been stationed in Razgrad, has been transferred to the Yugoslav border.
11. The 2 Labor Regiment was transferred from Peshtera to Plovdiv.
12. The 9 Infantry Regiment, formerly at Plovdiv, is now stationed at Kurdzhali.
13. The 8 Cavalry Regiment was transferred from Tolbukhin to Silistra.
14. The 52 Infantry Regiment was transferred from Plovdiv to Karlovo.
15. The 4 Artillery Regiment was transferred from Tolbukhin to Sokolovo (Balchik), where it is billeted in new barracks.
16. The 42 Infantry Regiment was transferred from Dobrich to the vicinity of Stalin.

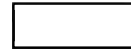
Air Information

17. At the end of 1951, the Bulgarian air force consisted of approximately 400 fighter planes (Kampfflugzeugen). It has three air force divisions. Each division has three regiments, and one regiment consists of 36-40 planes.

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18. After World War II, Bulgaria had only planes of German manufacture, such as Messerschmitt, Focke-Wulf, DFS-346, Ju-52, etc. In 1949, these planes were replaced by Soviet PE-2s, YAK-9s, and IL-2s. In September 1951, nine jet fighter MIG-15s were observed in Bulgaria for the first time. However, it could not be ascertained whether these planes belonged to the Soviet or Bulgarian air forces. Since the nine jets were observed at Graf Ignatiev airfield, where a training school is maintained for the Bulgarian air force, it is believed that they belong to Bulgaria.
19. As a result of the expanding airforce and intensification of training, old airfields were modernized and a number of new airfields were constructed. As of 24 January 1952, the following airfields were known to be in use:
 - a. Krumovo;
 - b. Yambol;
 - c. Lovech;
 - d. Bozhurishte;
 - e. Vrazhdebna;
 - f. Dolna Mitropoliya;
 - g. Kazanluk;
 - h. Gorna Oryakhovitsa;
 - i. Gorna Dikyanya (Dzhumaya);
 - j. Stalin, hydroplane base;
 - k. Dospat;
 - l. Graf Ignatiev;
 - m. Karlovo;
 - n. Sopot;
 - o. Plovdiv;
 - p. Tolbukhin (Dobrich);
 - q. Telish;
 - r. Dolni Dubnik; and
 - s. Balchik.
20. The following airfields were under construction:
 - a. Tolbukhin: Located northeast of Tolbukhin; construction work was begun in early 1950 on the 15 square kilometer airfield which will have one

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runway 80 meters wide and one runway 30 meters wide; each runway will be approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers long; the airfield has parking places for approximately 40 planes, connecting taxiing strips, and two hangars, each 50 meters long and 15 meters wide;

- b. Kupech (unidentified): This airfield is located five kilometers east of Brac (sic) and is provided with underground hangars and fuel dump;
 - c. Bezmer: Located six kilometers west of Yambol; construction of this airfield was begun in May 1950; the unusually extensive ground clearing operations indicate that this airfield is built to accommodate jet fighters;
 - d. Dobrosavtsi (unidentified): Located between Dobrosavtsi and Mirovlyani, 15 kilometers north of Sofia; construction was begun in 1949 and was completed by the end of 1951; the airfield was built under the supervision of Soviet experts and is suitable for jet fighters; it is one of the largest airfields in Bulgaria, with an area of 8 x 5 kilometers and has two runways, each 60 meters x $3\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers; and
 - e. Khaskovo: This airfield was also constructed under Soviet supervision; it has a concrete runway; 40-50 planes are permanently stationed at the field; presumably, it has underground hangars and fuel dumps.
21. According to unconfirmed information, an airfield, named Mirno Polye, is located in the vicinity of Orizovo, 20 kilometers west of Chirpan. It is used as a jet fighter base.¹
22. Unconfirmed reports indicate an airfield in the vicinity of Sarafovo, east of Burgas.²
23. Construction is under way on the following emergency airfields which were used during World War II:
- a. A small emergency airfield, located near Deleyno, 20 kilometers northeast of Kula and two kilometers from the Yugoslav border; in recent years, clearing work has been observed several times; the civilian population is not allowed to enter the area;
 - b. An emergency airfield, located between the Danube and Vidbol at a location six kilometers south of Vidin, is unused at present but is maintained in operating condition;
 - c. The Gradets emergency airfield, located 12 kilometers northwest of Vidin, is being prepared for operation; and
 - d. An emergency airfield, located six kilometers northeast of Petrich where the Strumeshnitsa flows into the Struma River; at present, repair work is under way.

1. Comment: Possibly the Chirpan airfield.
2. Comment: Possibly the Burgas airfield.

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